

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 021307Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303

S E C R E T CAIRO 7735

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EG JO SY

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO

PRESIDENT SADAT ON AID EGISLATION

REF: ATE 214669

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT LAST NIGHT TO DELIVER PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON AID LEGISLATION. AS IS USUALLY THE CASE WITH SUCH MESSAGES, HE ASKED ME TO READ IT TO HIM. HE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, I EXPLAINED TO HIM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE AND CONTINUING RESOLUTION PROCEDURES. I STRESSED PRESIDENT FORD'S ASSURANCE CONTAINED IN THE LETTER THAT IF THE PASSAGE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION IS NOT OBTAINABLE BY THE END OF DECEMBER, WE WILL SEEK TO DEVELOP THROUGH ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE CHANNELS THE NECESSARY AID FOR EGYPT. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

2. I THEN TOLD HIM ABOUT THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY THE PREVIOUS DAY QUOTING SECTION OF CAIRO 7505. HE ASKED HOW LEAK HAD OCCURRED. TOLD HIM I DID NOT KNOW, BUT I WAS SURE DEPT IS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. HE SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER IS THE LATEST STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

3. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR OUT INTEREST IN EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE

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OBSERVED THAT EHE EXCERPTS FROM MY TELEGRAM, AS I HAD

READ THEM TO HIM FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, ACCURATELY
REFLECT THE SITUATION HERE IF NO US ECONOMIC AID FOR
EGYPT IS FORTHCOMING. HIS DOMESTIC POSITION WILL BE
WEAKENED AND HIS ARAB CRITICS WILL SEIZE UPON IT TO
CASTIGATE HIS POLICY. HE ALSO REMARKED ON DIFFICULTIES
FAHMY WILL HAVE IN MOSCOW WERE IT TO APPEAR THAT US AID
FOR EGYPT IS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED
HIS GRATITUDE FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER, STATING HE
HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S AND SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S GOOD WILL AND GOOD INTENTIONS.

4. WE AGREED THAT I SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT
WITH PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI. I NOW HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH PRIMIN AT
NOON TOMORROW AT WHICH TIME I WILL DO SO.

5. COMMENT: TODAY'S AHRAM FRONTPAGES REFERENCES TO
NEW YORK TIMES' DISCLOSURE OF MY TELEGRAM, BUT DOES NOT
QUOTE EXCERPTS. WE MAY EXPECT THAT NEW OF PROBLEM WILL
CAUSE SOME UNEASINESS HERE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT FOR THE
MOMENT AT LEAST PRESIDENT SADA HAS BEEN REASSURED.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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